

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE
YEAR 1944.HE
A 24 SEP 1945
C.R.-----
To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for last year.

VITAL STATISTICS. - I have calculated the various rates on the estimated population of 4,841 given by the Registrar-General. The births and deaths are those registered during the year from January 1st. to December 31st.

Births. - I am pleased that the birth-rate was a high one, viz: 19.8 per 1,000 population, the total number of births being 96 - 53 male and 43 female. The rate compares with a local rate of 13.8 in 1943, and an England and Wales rate in 1944 of 17.6. Seven of the births were illegitimate. There were two Still Births.

Deaths. - There were 73 deaths - 34 male and 39 female. The rate was therefore 15.07 against a rate of 11.6 for England and Wales. There were 79 deaths in the previous year. Consequently the deaths were fewer and the births more than in 1943.

There were four deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 41.6 per 1000 live births. Three of them died as a result of birth; two in hospital. The England and Wales rate was 46.

As to ages at death, fully half - 38 - died at the age of 70 years or over, 10 of these being over 80, including one of 94 years. One was aged 15 (an accident); one aged 22 and another 25, both of whom died of Lobar Pneumonia. Most of the others were between 60 and 70.

Causes of death. - Heart Disease (these include so many of the heart failures in the aged) - 33, Cancer - 6; Intracranial Vascular lesions - 9; Bronchitis - 3; Pneumonia - 5; Peptic Ulcer - 1; other digestive diseases - 2; Nephritis - 1. Then there were road traffic accidents - 2; Suicide - 1; other violent causes - 5; and all other causes - 3.

There was no death directly from Tuberculosis.

There was no death from Puerperal Fever.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. - A total of 67 cases were notified, 36 being Scarlet Fever, 27 of whom were removed to hospital. They were scattered over the district at different times of the year and can scarcely be called an epidemic. There were 11 cases of Measles and 4 of Whooping Cough, all towards the end of the year but continuing into the New Year.

There were 5 cases of acute Primary Pneumonia, 3 of Puerperal Pyrexia (2 of the Pneumonia and 2 of the Puerperal cases were notified from Hospital) and 3 of Erysipelas.

Our record with regard to Diphtheria was broken by 2 notifications (both removed to hospital) but one was a lad who had just returned to the Rishworth School after the recess and the other a man 33 years old.

In connection with Diphtheria and Immunisation, it is interesting to note that the cost of isolation of these two cases in hospital was £87. 5s. 0d.

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1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the general principles of the theory of the structure of the atom. It is shown that the structure of the atom is determined by the laws of quantum mechanics, and that the laws of quantum mechanics are derived from the principles of relativity and the theory of the structure of the atom.

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Tuberculosis - Three cases of the Pulmonary form were notified. The number on my Register at the end of the year were 14 Pulmonary and 12 Non-Pulmonary.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS - 136 infants and children under 15 were immunised. At the end of the year I estimated the percentage of under 5's as 81 and of 5 - 15's as 90.

SCABIES. - Treatment of this verminous disease ceased at the First Aid Post, Zion School, on November 15th, after which arrangement was made through the County Council whereby cases are now treated at the General Hospital, Halifax, the charge of 7/6d per treatment being paid by the County Council. Only one case received treatment there at the end of the year.

From these various facts and figures I think you will agree that the year 1944 was a healthy one.

HOUSING. - Another year has passed without the building of houses, but with the end of the War the prospects are now better. As you know, houses are required:

- (i) for demobilised Service Men who are now married but have not yet had homes; and
- (ii) to replace, it may be indirectly, houses which during the war years have been unfit for human habitation and yet have been occupied.

I hope that the latter will be dealt with as speedily as possible.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS. - The total number of Inspections made in 1944 for Nuisances only was 19. 10 Nuisances were found and abated informally. There were no Statutory Notices, Summons, or other legal proceedings.

Other Nuisances exist, however, and more drastic action will be necessary in order to have them abated.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. - There were no sewer extensions during 1944. The number of houses not connected to sewers was 522. The number of Water Closets was 1,174, and other forms of Privies and Closets 330. 12 new W.C.s were provided during the year. Refuse was disposed of by Tipping, at a cost of £607.17s.6d.

WATER SUPPLY. - The source of water supply is from Springs on the Moors and Uplands, and is supplied to 1,193 dwelling houses by the Council. The supply was satisfactory as regards health.

MILK SUPPLY. - This is a milk supplying district, there being 106 Cowkeepers and 182 Cowsheds. 44 are registered Wholesale Traders. Your Sanitary Inspector made 174 inspections of 138 cowsheds.

Farmers generally are showing better understanding concerning the production of clean milk. Many are contemplating adapting their premises to "Accredited" standards. Records show 5 increases from "Ordinary" to "Accredited" milk. There is one production of "Tuberculin Tested" milk and 13 of "Accredited" milk.

I visited the four schools during the year.

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Since the formation of the Ripponden Council in 1937 with six years of War, you have not had the opportunity to do much of an active nature, but I hope this will be remedied in the years to come.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A.J.W. Stephen,
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a detailed discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science.

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